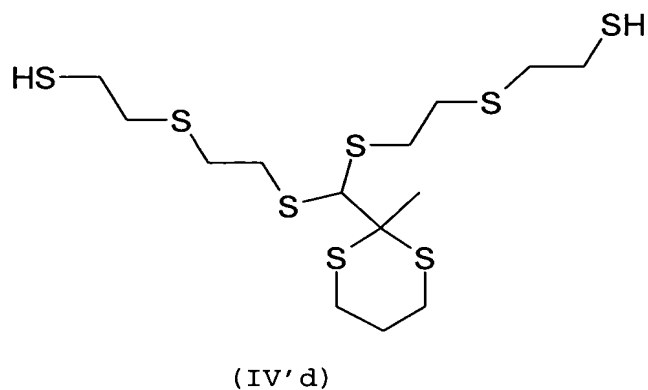
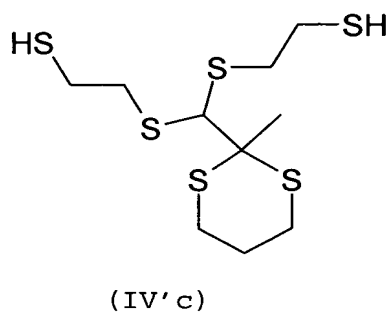
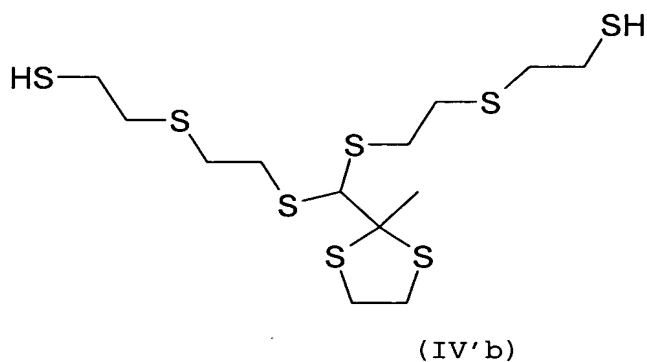
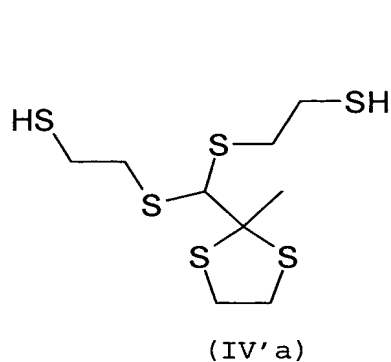


### Amendments to the Claims:

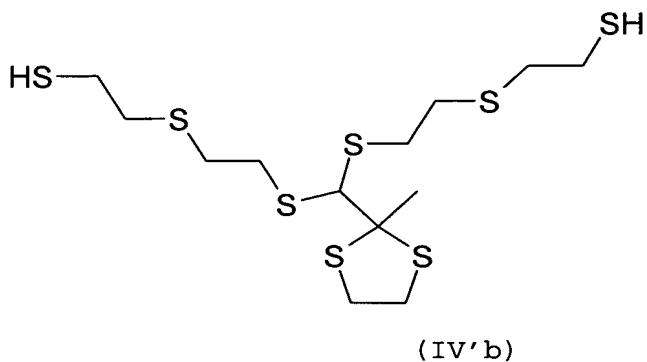
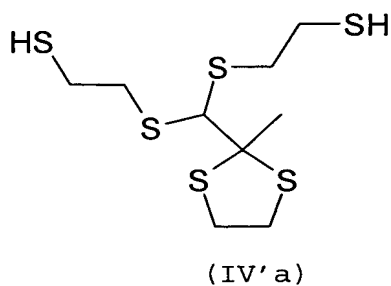
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

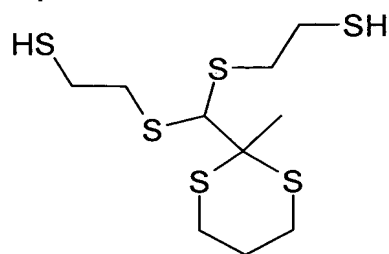
### Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A composition comprising one or more sulfide-containing polythiols chosen from materials represented by the following structural formulas:

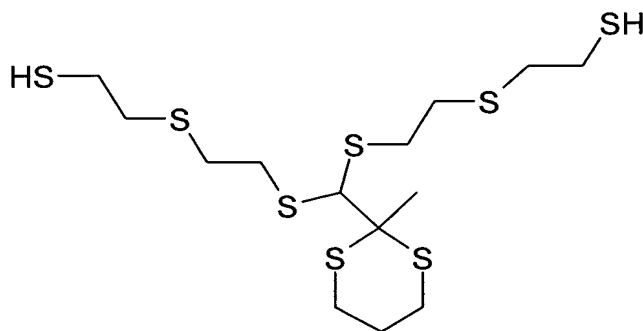


2. (withdrawn) A method of preparing a sulfide-containing polythiol represented by the following structural formulas





(IV' c)



(IV' d)

comprising:

- (a) introducing asym-dichloroacetone together with a polymericaptan; and
- (b) introducing the reaction product of (a) with a material chosen from polymericaptoalkylsulfide, polymericaptan and mixtures thereof.

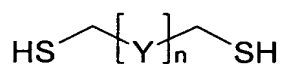
3. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein (a) is carried out in the presence of an acid catalyst.

4. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein (b) is carried out in the presence of a base.

5. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein at least one of the reactions of step (a) and (b) is carried out in the presence of a solvent.

6. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the asym-dichloroacetone is 1,1-dichloroacetone.

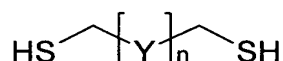
7. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the polymericaptan in (a) is chosen from materials represented by the following structural formula:



wherein Y = CH<sub>2</sub> or (CH<sub>2</sub>-S-CH<sub>2</sub>) and n = an integer from 0 to 5, and mixtures thereof.

8. (withdrawn) The method of claim 7 wherein the polymericaptan in (a) is chosen from ethanedithiol, propanedithiol and mixtures thereof.

9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the polymericaptan in (b) is chosen from aromatic polymericaptans, cycloalkyl polymericaptans, heterocyclic polymericaptans, branched polymericaptans, materials represented by the following general formula:



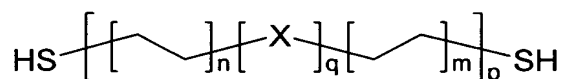
wherein Y = CH<sub>2</sub> and n = an integer from 0 to 5,  
and mixtures thereof.

10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the polymericaptan in (a) to prepare structural formulas IV'a and b is ethanedithiol.

11. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the polymericaptan in (a) to prepare structural formulas IV'c and d is 1,3-propanedithiol.

12. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the polymericaptan in (b) to prepare structural formulas IV'a and c is 1,2-ethanedithiol.

13. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the polymericaptoalkylsulfide in (b) is chosen from materials represented by the following general formula:



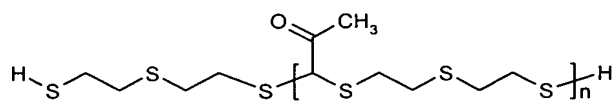
wherein X represents O, S or Se, n is an integer from 0 to 10, m is an integer from 0 to 10, p is an integer from 1 to 10, and q is an integer from 0 to 3, (m + n) is an integer from 1 to 20, and mixtures thereof.

14. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein the polymericaptoalkylsulfide in (b) to prepare structural formulas IV'b and d is dimercaptoethylsulfide.

15. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein in (a), the equivalent ratio of asym-dichloroacetone to polymericaptan is from 1:1 to 1:10.

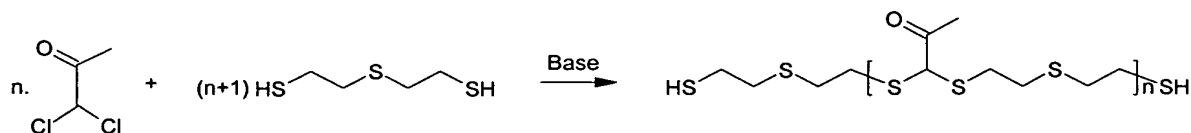
16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein in (b), the equivalent ratio of reaction product of (a) to material chosen from polymericaptan, polymericaptoalkylsulfide, or a mixture thereof, can be from 1:1.01 to 1:2.

17. (withdrawn) A composition comprising at least one sulfide-containing oligomeric polythiol chosen from materials represented by the following structural formulas:



wherein n represents an integer from 1 to 20.

18. (withdrawn) A method of preparing a sulfide-containing oligomeric polythiol represented by the following structural formulas:



wherein n represents an integer from 1 to 20,

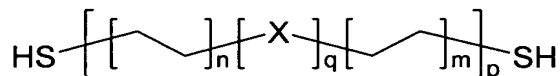
comprising introducing asym-dichloroacetone together with polymercaptoalkylsulfide.

19. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a base.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a solvent.

21. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein the asym-dichloroacetone is 1,1-dichloroacetone.

22. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein the polymercaptoalkylsulfide is chosen from materials represented by the following general formula:



wherein X represents O, S or Se, n is an integer from 0 to 10, m is an integer from 0 to 10, p is an integer from 1 to 10, q is an integer from 0 to 3, and (m + n) is an integer from 1 to 20.

23. (withdrawn) The method of claim 22 wherein the polymercaptoalkylsulfide is dimercaptoethylsulfide.

24. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein “n” moles of asym-dichloroacetone and “n+1” moles of polymercaptoalkylsulfide are present in the reaction, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 20.